


May 6, 1985

TO: Coal File, Inspection and Enforcement Folder  
FROM: David Lof, Mining Field Specialist   
RE: Co-Op Mining Company, Bear Canyon Mine, ACT/015/025, Folder #7, Emery County, Utah

A partial inspection was conducted at the above mentioned mine on April 19, 1985.

Groundwater Monitoring Drilling Site Revegetation

Last fall the operator conducted some drilling for their groundwater monitoring program. One of the sites was just west southwest of the shop in a previously undisturbed area. The operator did not get the site reseeded last fall and committed to completing the seeding this spring. At the time of my inspection I found the operator had completed the seeding and mulching of this site.

Upper Storage Pad, NOV N85-4-3-2, #1 of 2

On February 25, 1985 the above mentioned violation was issued for the operators conducting underground coal mining activities on the upper storage pad without Division approval. The operator was required to remove all materials from the area by March 12, 1985 and to not use the area until approved by the Division. The abatement deadline for the violation was later extended until April 4, 1985.

At the time of this inspection I found that the operator had removed all materials from the upper storage pad except some cinder blocks. Mr. Coonrod said that they were going to use the block to build a headwall for the undisturbed diversion which conveys runoff under the pad.

Substation Area

It appeared that the operator had completed the grading of the area where water had been ponding between the upper storage pad and the substation. However, there was still water ponding along side and on the road. It appeared that the operator's grading had done very little other than spreading out the water so that it was not one big puddle.

Hiawatha Seam Portal, NOV N85-4-8-2, # 1 of 2

This violation was issued on March 12, 1985 for the development of a new pad for access to the Hiawatha seam. The operator was required to cease all activities on the new pad and slopes affected by the pad development immediately. In addition, the operator was required to submit complete plans to the Division for the approval of the pad development by March 27, 1985 at 5:00 p.m.

On April 1, 1985, the Division received "plans" for the operator's proposed development of the Hiawatha seam pad. These plans proposed the development of the pad and portal as a conveyor portal for the Hiawatha seam. The plans included a conveyor coming from the portal, a two hundred ton bin with feeder, and a conveyor from the bin down to their tippie. While discussing this with Mr. Coonrod, I informed him that the Division was in the process of reviewing the plans. I told him that we are not going to approve plans for further development of the portal but simply plans for stabilization of the pad itself.

It did not appear that there had been any additional work on the Hiawatha seam pad since the issuance of the NOV. However, there was an electrical cable going up to and into the portal.

Mine Water Discharge, NOV N85-4-13-1

At the time of this inspection there was mine water discharging from the metal pipe adjacent to the disturbed area downspout for the portal pad. According to Mr. Coonrod, this was gravity flow from the mine sump. The amount of water being discharged was approximately 15-25 gallons per minute. The water was being discharged onto some conveyor belting which conveyed it down to the Hiawatha seam pad. The water was then flowing down the fill slope of the new pad causing excessive erosion on the slope. The water then followed the existing disturbed area runoff flow path to the sediment pond. I asked Mr. Coonrod if they had approval to discharge mine water to the sediment pond and he indicated that they did not. Because the operator did not have approval to discharge mine water and a concern for the sediment ponds ability to handle additional inflow. Notice of Violation N85-4-13-1 was issued, it reads as follows:

Nature of the Violation

Failure to mine in accordance with an approved interim permit

Provision of the Regulations, Act or Permit Violated

UCA 40-10-22 (1)(c)  
UMC 771.19

Portion of the Operation to Which Notice Applies

Discharge of mine water to the sediment pond.

Remedial Action Required

- A. Stop discharging water from the mine
- B. Submit complete plans to the Division for the permitting of discharge of water from the mine to the surface.

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Time for Abatement

- A. Immediately
- B. May 8, 1985

The NOV was issued from the Division office on April 23, 1985.

Portal Pad Disturbed Area Runoff Downspout

The operator has installed a new downspout inlet for the disturbed area runoff from the portal pad. However, runoff was bypassing the culvert inlet and seeping through the berm piping along the culvert. I pointed this out to Mr. Coonrod and he told me that they were planning on cementing in the inlet.

Sediment Pond

The water level in the sediment pond was close to the crest of the principal spillway.

Fugitive Dust Control on the Class I Road

Dust on the road was adequately controlled at the time of this inspection. This was primarily due to precipitation received on the day of the inspection.

Buffer Zone Signs

I asked Mr. Coonrod if he had ordered buffer zone signs to place along Bear Creek. He said that he had not and that former Division Permit Supervisor Mary Boucek told him that they were not necessary. I then told him that no matter what he was told that the regulations require that buffer zone signs be provided. He then asked for a letter from the Division directing him to do so. I informed him that it was a requirement of the regulations to provide buffer zone signs and that it was not necessary for the Division to send him a letter directing him to comply with regulations.

re

cc: Donna Griffin, OSM  
Mel Coonrod, Co-Op Mining Company  
Joe Helfrich, DOGM  
John Whitehead, DOGM

Statistics: See Soldier Creek Coal Company, Soldier Canyon Mine  
memo dated May 6, 1985

0243Q-11-13